

Next steps in action

Next steps are about taking the child to the next level of their learning – they are not about pushing children so hard that all the fun is removed from their play – they are not meant to take focus away from the amazing things children do and say every day.

Here is how I do my next steps...

What can I already do? Use observations from the provision (inside and outside play and when on outings), the child's home and family life and other settings (if relevant) and Early Years Outcomes to determine what the child can do and whether their current abilities are age appropriate.

What would I like to do next? Use knowledge of child development and awareness of the child's learning styles, current interests and learning characteristics to think about what the child might enjoy doing next to extend their learning. You will find lots of support to help you find developmentally appropriate next steps ideas in the Development Matters guidance (positive relationships and enabling environments sections).

Make sure children's learning goals are achievable and appropriate for the child. For example, if a child has recognised the number 1, you might want to plan some more activities linked to 1 to consolidate their learning before moving them on to the next step of recognising other numerals...

How will I achieve this goal? Working together with parents, think about how you can support the child to move on with their learning. You might want to provide new resources, research some information and ideas for games they might enjoy, offer extra opportunities for practicing skills during outside play etc.

How did I get on? Think about how the child's learning was enhanced as a result of the activities you planned for them. Ask parents - are they doing something new at home? Their feedback is always valuable for their child's file...

Sometimes, it can be useful to add a photo and a brief observation to share children's ongoing achievements with their parents. Let the child add a 'well done' sticker as well!

Links to the EYFS areas of learning Link your observations and children's learning / next steps activity ideas to the 7 areas of learning and the various aspects – and remember to provide parents with a key to what your codes mean so they can start to appreciate how many amazing things their child is learning – both while they are at home and with you.

For more information about next steps planning, please see e-book 65 from [Knutsford Childminding](#).